

Jacksonville Symphony Chorus To Perform Special Program March 29

Jacksonville, FL (March 21, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus under the direction of Donald McCullough will conduct a special program on Wednesday, March 29 at 8pm at Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall. McCullough will also serve as the conductor for the event. The Chorus will be performing Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* and Bob Chilcott's *Requiem*.

Composer Lauridsen who lives in the Pacific Northwest has used the forests and waterways of the area for inspiration in his works. He composed *Lux Aeterna* in 1997, the year his mother died. She was the muse who introduced him to music, playing swing jazz and singing to him as a toddler. She also taught him to play the piano. *Lux Aeterna* is often compared to Fauré's *Requiem* and Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, both works inspired by the deaths of the composers' mothers.

The five movements of *Lux Aeterna* are based on various references to light from sacred Latin texts and all supporting an earthbound spirit seeking not only mercy, but understanding, consolation and renewal.

Chilcott, one of the busiest and most popular figures in British choral music, began his musical experience as a boy chorister and then as a tenor choral scholar in the choir of King's College, Cambridge. Since 1997 he has worked as a composer. The *Requiem* was first performed in the United States in 2010 and its text is the Latin *Missa pro Defunctis*, the Mass for the Dead. The work is dedicated to the composer's niece who tragically died at the age of 23.

The music in the *Requiem* fears the usual Chilcott hallmarks: strong rhythms, lyrical melodies and the influence of jazz elements.

Donald McCullough, the Symphony's Tom Zimmerman Endowed Chair Chorus Director, is considered to be one of America's pre-eminent choral conductors. He joined the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus in 2012 and in November, 2014 led the Symphony Chorus in its first appearance in New York's Lincoln Center. Previously he was director of the Master Chorale of Washington in the John F. Kennedy Center Concert Hall for more than a decade.

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus has more than 140 volunteer members who must audition to participate. It is celebrating its 32nd season this year and was founded by past Music Director Roger Nierenberg.

Tickets for the concert are available at jaxsymphony.org, by calling the box office at 904-354-5547 or visiting the box office Monday through Friday from 20am to 4pm in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$10.

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra. For more information about the Symphony, visit jaxsymphony.org like them at Facebook.com/JaxSymphony, follow them on @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.